

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Applicant amends claims 14 and 19, and adds new claims 24 and 25, as follows:

Claims 1-13 (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of reducing ~~or eliminating~~ pain in a patient during the administration of a drug with a needle by reducing needle deflection comprising:

providing a needle having a lumen in communication with a drug supply;

advancing said needle in a soft body tissue while simultaneously rotating the needle to ~~eliminate~~ reduce pain-producing deflection of the needle; and

causing said drug to flow through said needle to the tissue as the needle is advanced and rotated.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said needle is advanced and rotated manually.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said needle is rotated sequentially in a first and a second direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said needle is rotated by an angle of more than 0 degrees.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14 wherein said needle is rotated by an angle of up to 180 degrees.

19. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~eliminating~~ reducing pain to a patient during the injection of a drug with a needle by reducing needle deflection, said method comprising:

advancing a needle into a patient soft tissue;

simultaneously rotating the needle to prevent the needle from ~~generating~~ increasing pain by bending within the tissue as it is being advanced; and

introducing the drug through the needle into the tissue as the needle is advanced and rotated.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the needle is rotated back and forth as it is being advanced.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the needle is rotated by an angle in the range of 0-180 degrees.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein said needle has beveled tip.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19 wherein the needle is advanced at a rate of about 2-4mm/sec.

24. (New) A method of injecting anesthetic into a patient, which reduces pain in the patient during administration of the anesthetic with a needle by reducing needle deflection, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a needle having a lumen in communication with a supply of anesthetic;

advancing the needle in a soft body tissue while simultaneously rotating the needle in a configuration that rotates the needle in a first direction and then rotating the needle in a second direction to reduce deflection of the needle during advancement; and

causing the anesthetic to flow through the needle to the tissue as the needle is advanced and rotated.

25. (New) A method of reducing deflection of a needle employed to inject anesthetic into a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a needle having a lumen in communication with a supply of anesthetic;

advancing the needle in a soft body tissue while simultaneously rotating the needle in a configuration that rotates the needle in a first direction and then rotating the needle in a second direction to reduce deflection of the needle during advancement; and

causing the anesthetic to flow through the needle to the tissue as the needle is advanced and rotated.